

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 12, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 12, 2005. Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Election/Restrictions

During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on September 29, 2004, a provisional election was made to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-8. This election is hereby affirmed without traverse.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because the term "the present invention" is recited in line 1. In response, Applicants have amended the abstract accordingly. Applicants respectfully request the objection to the abstract be removed.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-4 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 31 and 33-35 of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,776.

In order to facilitate prosecution, Applicants submit that the terminal disclaimer filed with this response overcomes the rejection to claims 1-4 based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the double patenting rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 5, and 7 were amended to correct informalities. Applicants respectfully request the amendments be entered.

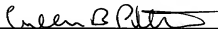
New claims

Claims 12-20 have been added to more clearly define aspects of the present invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. For similar reasons as discussed herein, Applicants believe new claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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